



Fact Sheet



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

377TH AIR BASE WING (AFMC)

Office of Public Affairs, Kirtland Air Force Base, NM 87117

505-846-5991

Teacher Institute

The Teacher Institute, piloted in 2007, is a week-long science, technology, engineering and math professional development activity conducted by the Air Force Research Laboratory La Luz Academy.

The La Luz Academy is on Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico.

During the institute, participating math and science teachers listen to guest speakers, tour facilities, engage in various hands-on STEM activities and discuss

how these concepts can be taken back and applied in their classrooms. The concepts behind the activities are tied to the academy's various flights for students in grades five through twelve.



The institute's primary goal is to promote STEM education by providing teachers with concepts, tools, and resources that can be transferred to the creation of motivating hands-on activities for their students.

The institute focuses on the effective use of inquiry-based learning as it applies to STEM concepts relevant to AFRL research. Teacher Institute participants are expected to sign up to participate in one of the flights for the upcoming school year. Graduate credit opportunities are available for institute participants interested in pursuing a master's degree.

Multiple teachers from the same school or district are encouraged to participate in the institute. This strategy helps us stress the importance of teaming within the educational community. Additionally, the institute strives to help participants build relationships with scientists and engineers who can enhance their under-

standing of STEM concepts. In today's science and technology world, there is a new paradigm for the scientific method. It is not one lone individual expert who looks at an event and postulates a theory, but a team of experts with different STEM backgrounds.

Institute participants are tasked with developing several hands-on lessons they can implement in their classroom and that tie to the flight they choose to participate in. During the school year, the institute sends a professional development specialist out to assist the teachers as they work on these lessons.

Teachers are expected to attend the Teacher Institute Symposium at the end of the school year where they will share these classroom lessons.

The teacher-developed lessons will be compiled and made available for use by other teachers participating in the AFRL La Luz Academy. The institute hopes to build lasting relationships with institute participants that will enhance STEM education for students of all ages.

For more information, contact AFRL La Luz Academy at (505) 846-8042 or go to: <http://www.vs.afrl.af.mil/TechOutreach/TT/K-12.aspx>.



(Current as of October 2008)